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The plague.

Since December 8, the Italian Government has ceased to quarantine against Egypt on account of the plague.

Respectfully,

VICTOR G. HEISER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

MALTA.

Changes in quarantine regulations.

MALTA, VALLETTA, *December 7, 1899.*

SIR: I send the Department to-day, herewith inclosed, two clippings from the Malta Government Gazette, appertaining to a recent change in quarantine regulations.

Reference to paragraph (c) of article 2 shows that Malta does not now quarantine against Egyptian ports but only Portugal.

Respectfully,

JOHN H. GROUT,
United States Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

[Inclosure.]

Malta quarantine regulations.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

His excellency the governor having heard the opinion of the board of health, has been pleased to modify Government notice No. 310, of November 21, 1899, and to direct that the following regulations be observed, viz:

- (1) VESSELS WHICH ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER THE HARBOR, BUT ARE ALLOWED TO COMMUNICATE IN QUARANTINE WITH THE ISLANDS OF COMINO AND COMINOTTO UNDER SUCH RESTRICTIONS AS THE COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS MAY DIRECT.
 - (a) Vessels that have on board, or have had during the voyage cases of cholera, yellow fever, or plague, or cases of a disease with symptoms resembling those of cholera, yellow fever, or plague.
 - (b) Vessels with pilgrims from the East.
 - (c) Vessels arriving from Arabian ports in the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf which have not been admitted to free pratique at Suez and Port Said.
- (2) VESSELS WHICH ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE QUARANTINE HARBOR TO COAL AND TAKE IN PROVISIONS UNDER QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS.
 - (a) Vessels arriving from Indian ports without a doctor; but those that carry a doctor and have passed through the Suez Canal in free pratique shall be admitted to free pratique.
 - (b) Vessels arriving from any port without a clean bill of health, which do not fall under any of the preceding regulations.
 - (c) Vessels arriving from Portugal.

(3) MEDICAL INSPECTION.

All vessels arriving at Malta shall undergo strict medical inspection.

(4) PASSENGERS.

(a) Passengers arriving from Bombay, Kurrachee, and passengers from Calcutta, on board vessels that do not carry a doctor, shall be landed in one of the quarantine establishments, where they will be subjected to strict medical inspection until their clothing and all other articles of personal use, likely to retain infection, shall have been thoroughly disinfected.

(b) Passengers arriving from Indian ports on board vessels that carry a doctor shall be permitted to land, but no luggage shall be landed before it is disinfected in one of the quarantine establishments.

(c) Every passenger or other person arriving at Malta shall, before being allowed to land, declare on oath before an inspector of marine police or other superior officer that he has not been in Portugal within twenty-one days; whenever such person does not make this declaration on oath, he shall undergo a period of quarantine on the ship of twenty-one days; provided, however, that any passenger arriving on a vessel carrying a doctor, shall not be required to make the said declaration if he produces to the inspector of marine police, or other superior officer, a solemn declaration in terms of act 5 and 6, William IV, C. 62, to the above effect, signed by himself in the presence of the master on the high sea.

(5) GOODS.

The importation of coffee, beans or ground, colored with substances injurious to health is prohibited.

The importation of cotton seed from any port subject to quarantine is forbidden.

The importation of rags is prohibited.

The importation is forbidden before disinfection, of the following articles, viz, wearing apparel, soiled linen and clothing, bedding materials, feathers, bones, and jute goods.

The importation of hides from any port subject to quarantine or from any place where cattle disease exists, is prohibited before disinfection.

The importation of vines, vine shoots, and fruit packed in vine leaves, is prohibited. The importation of plants or roots from any port of the Mediterranean is prohibited unless the same are accompanied by a satisfactory certificate from the British consular authority that Phylloxera is not known to exist at the place of origin.

By command,
PALACE, VALLETTA, *December 2, 1899.*

G. STRICKLAND,
Chief Secretary to Government.

SPAIN.

Report from Barcelona.

BARCELONA, SPAIN, *December 16, 1899.*

SIR: Pursuant to Bureau order of November 14, 1899, I have the honor to submit the following report of my visit to this city, made with reference to the emigrant traffic from Eastern Spain to the United States, Cuba, and Puerto Rico, and for a conference with the United States consul-general, Mr. Lay, relative to the plague situation and the danger of its introduction, owing to the close commercial relations and direct railroad communications maintained between Portugal and Spain, and to discuss to some extent the measures and restrictions to be enforced to combat this danger.

Barcelona, as well as being the chief commercial city, is also the largest city in Spain, and carries on an extensive maritime trade with the United States, the West Indies, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Philippines. Four steamship lines, carrying both passengers and freight, sail directly to ports in Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the United States, averaging 1 sailing weekly. In addition to these, there are a number of freight lines sailing regularly to ports in those countries.

The passenger and emigrant travel from Barcelona to Cuba and Puerto Rico, with a limited number going direct to the United States by way of New Orleans, is considerable. From September 23 to the present date there were 711 cabin passengers and 655 emigrants booked for these places.

From the date of resumption of commercial relations with Spain up to September 23, the travel in this direction was light and no records of it were kept.

Barcelona has no direct trade with the East save in the Philippines, and no coastwise trade (?) on the coast north of Cadiz at the present time. But from Santander and Corunna on the north and Vigo Bay on the northwest coast there is at present, it is understood, a large